

JOHN COLET SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

NEWSLETTER

Vol 2, Issue 2

December 2019

A half termly update from the Head of Sixth Form & our Head Student Team

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Seasons Greetings to all parents and carers and to our Year 12 and Year 13 students

What a busy first term it has been! Our new Year 12 students have settled into life in KS5 and Year 13 are working hard with focus on the Mock Exams which take place in the New Year. Alongside the curriculum there have been so many events and activities. I do hope that all of you enjoy a restful holiday and that students return refreshed and excited for the Spring Term. As always, please do get in touch with the Form Tutor, Subject Teachers or myself if you have any queries or concerns around your child's progress, attitude, attendance or well-being. See you in 2020!

The Sixth Form team is led by Mrs Fanchi (Head of Sixth Form) and comprises four experienced form tutors with extensive experience of pastoral support, Post 16. Mrs Sinacore (Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form) supervises our study facility, assists students and provides administrative and pastoral support each day.

Events of the half term

With many of our students passing their driving tests and many students finding themselves passengers in their friends' cars, the message of how to keep safe on the roads was shared when Year 12 attended **Safe Drive, Stay Alive** and reiterated by a talk to all students by Bucks Fire and Rescue Service educator, Keith Wheeler. Whilst an emotionally uncomfortable experience, the lessons learned are so important in keeping our young people safer.

A group of 11 students from the Sixth Form, along with two from Year 10, have been participating in a 6 weeks course learning British Sign Language. This is part of the Sixth Form Enrichment programme on Tuesday afternoons and the group have been working hard to learn lots of vocabulary. Their teachers, Jill and Heather, along with Hearing Dog, Kit, have been very impressed with the speed the students have learned and their dedication and enthusiasm. There will be another 6 weeks course running in the Spring Term and then an intermediate course for those who wish to develop their skills further, early in the Summer term.

Year 12 are participating in the **National Film and Television School Challenge** and the team who were mentioned last half term as Round 1 winners have now produced their film and have submitted it to the NFTS for judging. The team of Max, Amy, Becky H, Pearl and Josh worked hard to create a great advert for the school. Watch this space for the result!

We are lucky in the Sixth Form to have a team of very talented and enthusiastic footballers. The team play recreationally as part of enrichment on Tuesday and played a competitive match against Aylesbury Grammar School this half term. The JCS boys secured a decisive 9-3 victory over AGS and, under Euan Anderson's captaincy, the goal scorers were Euan (3), Dan G-P (2), Ted M (2) and Zack H (2). GREAT!

A group of boys and girls from the Sixth Form participated in a **Self Defence / Martial Arts** session led by Ben Babbington of www.zksmartialarts.co.uk/. The students were able to practice strategies for getting out from under their opponents, grappling techniques and ways to defend themselves along with building confidence and having a fun time with their friends. The feedback was 100% positive so I am intending to offer this class again in the future.

A **BIG** thank you to all the students who attended our Into the Sixth Open Evening in November. Those who spoke did a confident and excellent job of communicating their experiences to prospective students. Those in the Hall and the Library were great ambassadors for their courses and the opportunities available in the Sixth Form. Well done to them all!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

On 6 December students were presented in assembly with certificates for the following extra curricular success:

Senior Maths Challenge – Ewan Moore, Louis Cass, Tommy Freeman and Sam Winter

LIBF Scholarships (£500) for top performance in the Financial Studies Certificate – Jaylunn Alphonse, Nneka Ayogu, Tanya Chineka, Riona Mason

SQ2 Sports Leaders Awards: Euan Anderson, Tom Withers, Aaliyah Khan, Zack Harris and Tom Astle

It is so important for all of our students to develop their character along with their academic accomplishments and to have those 'extra' achievements that make them stand out to admissions tutors, employers and training providers when they move on from JCS. Well done to all!

Tuesday Enrichment has included a number of 'life skills' sessions this term. Students have learned how to cook omelettes and pancakes, how to budget for a weekly shop and use online shopping platforms, how to use kitchen appliances such as the washing machine, how to read clothing labels and how to sew on buttons. They have taken part in yoga and meditation, gardening, reading for pleasure in Book Club, participation in sport using the fitness suite and playing team games in the Gym as well as learning basic first aid and, for our musicians, using the practice rooms to prepare for their upcoming music exams. Students can suggest ideas for the enrichment offer!

Well done to Muhammad Irfan, whose interest and talent for writing poetry has been formally recognised with the imminent publication of his work online. Rooted in a historical context, Muhammad's political interests are echoed through his work. Please see the next edition of the newsletter for a link to read Muhammad's poem!

Well done to all those students who have completed or exceeded their 10 hours Community Service this term – fantastic effort! Many will be starting new roles at John Hampden Infant School and Cherry Tree Residential care home in the New Year.

Senior Maths Challenge Team – Year 12



Devante at the Cenotaph

The Head Student Team are busy preparing to host 'Tinsel Tuesday' which is a seasonal event for the lower school. Under their leadership, each Sixth Form tutor group has designed two festive activities to offer to the younger students during the final Tuesday lunchtime of the term. The students will plan, resource and run their stalls for the enjoyment and entertainment of the school community. Games, activities and festive food will be on offer with a view to raising money to contribute towards the Sixth Form prom at the end of the year. This month sees the return of the Reverse Advent Box where students are donating food items to donate to a food bank at the end of term. Thank you to the Head Student Team for their continued hard work and enthusiasm during this busy term. Thank you to Devante for representing the JCS community at the Cenotaph the year.

PARENTS OF YEAR 12

Students benefitted from an assembly on Apprenticeships by ASK this half term and you can find out more by reading monthly 'Parent Packs' available at: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

It is never too early to attend university open days. You can search for these at www.opendays.com

Thank you for your support in securing excellent attendance from our students; please do advise us the reason for absence should your son/daughter be off.

PARENTS OF YEAR 13

If your son/daughter is applying through UCAS the deadline is fast approaching and some students are still some way from completing their application. Please do encourage them to finish their application so it can be sent off before the end of term. Well done to those who have already sent! If your child is pursuing an alternative route, you might like to look at www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

****Mock exams take place for Year 13 between Wednesday 8 - Monday 13 January. Please encourage valuable revision for these at home****

Contact Mrs Fanchi via the main office or dfanchi@johncolet.co.uk or Mrs Sinacore tsinacore@johncolet.co.uk